SEP 2018

THE CITY OF BENTONVILLE

FOCUS

A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR COMMUNITY

Mayor McCaslin's Last Letter

Soon Northwest Arkansas will again display the beautiful colors of fall. We are so fortunate to live and work in such an exceptional place. The economic indicators for our city are impressively positive; residential and commercial building permits validate a strong environment for private investment.

I have been blessed to serve as your mayor for the past 12 years. The changes over this decade plus are remarkable to say the least. Accomplishments have been many and are the result of intentional teamwork. As our population nears 50,000 residents, Bentonville, and other cities in Benton and Washington County, welcome more than 30 new residents per day. Twelve years ago our population was approximately 28,000; this increase of more than 75% is truly remarkable and speaks to readily available jobs, a great educational system and a high quality of life. Bentonville is a special place to enjoy life with our unique downtown square, walking and biking trails, low crime rates and a mixture of people from throughout the world.

This opportunity to comment through the city newsletter is my last since my term as mayor will end December 31, 2018. My commitment to managing your resources has been structured around my faith, respect for people, the free market and adherence to the rule of law. I believe the results speak positively. This conservative approach to managing all aspects of our city's operations with professionalism and integrity has produced an enviable return on the taxpayer's dollar. The management team for the city is highly educated, professional and committed to serving the citizens of Bentonville with integrity in all that they do. It is my opinion that there are few municipalities with a total team of this caliber – we are truly blessed. The working relationships that exists between our city, the school district, the chamber of commerce, Visit Bentonville and Downtown Bentonville, Inc. have created an environment where challenges are embraced and victories are shared by all.

A few comments from the past 12 years . . .

- Almost 3 million hours of giving to our community by thousands of Bentonville volunteers
- More than 200 Outstanding Citizens formally recognized for their many contributions to our community
- 20 plus neighborhood meetings conducted throughout the city
- 50% plus growth in sales tax receipts
- The addition of Orchards Park, Downtown Ice Rink/Splash Pad, Gilmore Park, Austin-Baggett Park, Enfield Park, Downtown Activity Center, Bentonville Community Center, Merchant's Park, Tennis Complex, Volleyball Complex, new soccer fields, Slaughter Pen Trail, Fire Station #1, Fire Station #6, Municipal Campus, Police Special Services Division (Bomb Squad), Municipal Court Facility, Utility Drive-thru, Downtown Square renovation, East Central renovation, NW 2nd Street renovation, West 8th Street connection, new airport terminal plus numerous additions and improvements at Louise Thaden Field, the dog park, the planting of thousand's of trees, a new SW I Street, the opening of Crystal Bridges, the Amazeum and the Museum of Native American History
- Partnerships with the Arkansas Department of Transportation for improvements to Highway 72 East, Highway 102 West and Highway 12 (SW Regional Airport Blvd.)

I will always look upon the time spent serving as your mayor with great appreciation.

Bob McCaslin

2nd Quarter Outstanding Citizen Award Recipients

Anna McCasland was nominated by Rebecca Camarigg. Anna, a rising senior at Bentonville West High School (BWHS) is serving as the 2017-2018 Student Council president and is a member of the varsity cheer team. Anna was Bentonville West's delegate to AR Girls State that took place this summer. Ms. Camarigg comments that earlier this year, in lieu of the National School Walkout, Anna orchestrated a day of kindness, in which BWHS students were asked to perform 17 random acts of kindness in memory of the 17 Parkland victims.

John Douglas nominated his wife, Emily, for the Outstanding Citizen Award. Emily is an active member of First United Methodist Church in Bentonville, where they attend regularly. She delivers Meals on Wheels on a rotating basis and has been an active volunteer with Friends of the Library for approximately 13 years. She volunteers at Circle of Life Hospice and is very active at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. John describes Emily as a consummate volunteer.

Jennifer VanSlooten nominated The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Bentonville Stake). Annually, this organization sponsors a one-day event called the Emergency Preparedness Fair that invites NWA citizens to learn how to prepare themselves in a time of disaster. A two-day blood drive is held in conjunction with this event benefitting the American Red Cross. It has been estimated in the 10+ years that this fair has taken place that the blood donations have saved over 1,000 lives. Additionally, each congregation that comprises the Bentonville Stake adopted a local charity in order to help support the individuals most in need in the community. The collective effort, typically taking place in October, was dubbed, "Fall into Service" month, benefitting were Havenwood, Helping Hands and the Salvation Army Emergency Shelter. Jennifer wrote about her nominee: "Though none of these individuals would ever want to receive recognition for their service, it is noteworthy the amount of good a group of individuals can accomplish when they come together with a common goal. Although all of these efforts collectively have helped Bentonville become a better place to live with our families, it is the individuals who participated who benefitted the most. There is great satisfaction that comes from knowing you have helped another."

The Outstanding Citizen Award program was initiated in January 2011 by Mayor McCaslin to recognize the exceptional volunteer contributions of Bentonville residents in three award categories: adult, youth and community group.

July Residential Landscape Award

The Cooper residence, located at 2407 NW Linebarger Lane, is the winner of the Residential Yard of the Month Award for July 2018. David has lived at his current residence for 18 years. He owns an excavation company and enjoys creating natural landscapes by using a mix of boulders and native plants. The landscaping is tasteful and creative, consistently maintained, and displays seasonal color due to the wide variety of plants and trees. Bentonville residents can nominate themselves or others for the award. For more information, www.bentonvillear.com/466/Tree-Landscape-Committee or contact Danielle Semsrott at dsemsrott@bentonvillear.com or (479) 271-3122.

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Bentonville Public Library

September is Library Card Sign-up Month!

If you don't have a library card yet, what are you waiting for! Anyone living in Benton County is eligible for a free Bentonville Library Card. Bring in a government issued photo I.D. and proof of residency to get your library card today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hispanic Heritage Month Storytime ¡Celebramos!
September 15 & 22 @ 2 p.m.

A Family Archaeology Afternoon
October 13 @ 1 p.m.

Super Science of NWA
October 27 @ 10:30 a.m.

Graphic Novelist Nate Powell
November 3 @ 1 p.m.

Family Nature Play Afternoon
November 10 @ 1 p.m.

Photographer Tim Ernst
December 1 @ 1 p.m.

Christmas Crafts, Cookies, Cocoa and Stories
December 8 @ 10:30 a.m.

Teen Read Week October 7-13

"It's Written in the Stars" that every teen should celebrate Teen Read Week this year at BPL! Join the Teen Advisory Board of Bentonville Public Library as they host nightly activities to inspire teens to read for fun.

Best Summer Ever!

Thank you to everyone who participated in BPL's Summer Reading Club program! We had our best year EVER with nearly 2,800 participants.

BPL ON THE GO!

BPL HAS TONS OF RESOURCES TO HELP YOU READ, LEARN AND GROW WHEREVER YOU GO!

LIBBY BY OVERDRIVE
Check out a wide range of ebooks and audiobooks for all ages!

LYNDA.COM
Learn business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals! Learn how to code, play a guitar, produce an ebook and much more!

TUTOR.COM
Online tutoring service. You can get a tutor in more than 40 subjects including math, science, social studies, English, foreign languages, and more!

PEBBLEGO!
Specifically designed to meet the needs of PreK-3 grade researchers, PebbleGo databases and educational games support literacy and build a foundation for a lifetime of learning.

ROSETTA STONE
Learn a new language! Rosetta Stone Provides the opportunity to develop all your language skills- listening, speaking, reading and writing.

CHECK OUT ALL OUR ONLINE RESOURCES IN THE STUDENT PORTAL AND ELEARNING @ WWW.BENTONVILLELIBRARY.ORG

Making a Difference

Mayor McCaslin recognizes outstanding citizens who have made a difference in the Bentonville community.

Mayor McCaslin presented Debby Wieneke with an Outstanding Citizen Award at her retirement reception on July 2, 2018. Debby retired as Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Benton County after more than 17 years of devotion and dedication to the organization. Because of her passion for this organization, Debby plans to continue to serve as a volunteer with Habitat during her retirement. Numerous lives and families have been impacted because Habitat for Humanity provided affordable housing during her tenure.

Ben and Tiffany Snodgrass were presented with an Outstanding Citizen Award by Mayor McCaslin on July 31 for their Loads of Learning initiative through their Sugar Creek Laundromat located in Bentonville. The Snodgrass' have a desire to help those less fortunate. Regularly, citizens are afforded the opportunity to do their laundry at the Bentonville location free of charge due to the generosity of the Snodgrass' and partner organizations. While parents are busy doing laundry, volunteers read to the children who have accompanied their parents to the facility. Kids are encouraged to take a book home with them. Ben commented regarding the growth that Bentonville and Northwest Arkansas has experienced, "And to me, it's super important that we not lose sight of being a community where we take care of each other. That's the most important thing we can do." Professionally, Ben is a Bentonville firefighter and paramedic, and Tiffany is an elementary teacher with Bentonville Public Schools.

On Wednesday, August 8, Mayor McCaslin presented Mark and Lisa Hufford, operators of Bentonville Chick-Fil-A, with an Outstanding Citizen Award for their many generous contributions to Bentonville. Chick-Fil-A Bentonville has been a partner of the Outstanding Citizen Award program for several years, providing complimentary breakfast meals to the recipients at the recognition ceremony. Additionally, Chick-Fil-A supports the Bright Futures program through the Bentonville Public School system.

Power Outage? Check your breaker before reporting!

A $100 fee may be charged to any customer who reports a power outage to the Bentonville Electric Utilities Department (BEUD) that turns out to be a customer issue. The fee will be added to the customer's next electric bill to cover the cost of dispatching BEUD personnel.

One customer issue is a tripped main breaker. The main breaker is owned by the customer and BEUD crews are not authorized to repair or reset this equipment. Another customer issue is if power is shutoff for non-payment.

Avoid the $100 charge

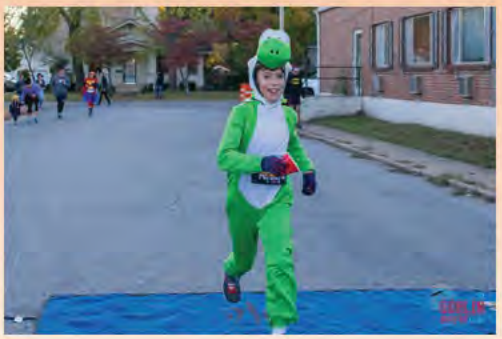
Check your surroundings. Are the street lights still on; do your neighbors have power? If so, the problem may be isolated to your home.

Make sure your bill is paid. Check to see if you have paid your bill and check your front door for a shutoff notice.

PARKS & Recreation

Goblin Run Oct. 27 @ 7:30 a.m.

Join Bentonville Parks & Recreation for the 3rd race of the Run Bentonville Race Series: The Goblin Run! Costumes are encouraged for this spooky race around town. Special awards to the best costumes! Features both a 5k and a free kids fun run! Begins at the Downtown Activity Center (215 SW A St.) For more information or to register, visit: www.runbentonville.com.



Halloween Spooktacular
Oct. 27 @ 5 p.m.

Help us celebrate with a day full of events during our Halloween Spooktacular at the Bentonville Community Center! Our Halloween Spooktacular will include a pumpkin patch with 1000 pumpkins (free for Community Center members), pumpkin decorating, costume contests, inflatables, and a Touch-A-Truck Truck or Treat with our very own Bentonville police and fire departments. Stick around for a free outdoor movie at 7:00 p.m.! Events take place at the Bentonville Community Center, 1101 SW Citizens Circle.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Bentonville COMMUNITY PLAN
A PLAN FOR A NEW AMERICAN TOWN

The proposed Community Plan is on the city website. Check here for updates on the schedule for adoption.

www.bentonvillear.com/259/Bentonville-Community-Plan

Political Signs & Sign Regulations

As we enter election season, please comply with Bentonville's sign regulations. Temporary signs supporting a particular candidate or issue fall into the category of protected noncommercial speech. No permit is required and there is no maximum number of signs as long as the total area of all signs does not exceed the maximum area allowed (see maximums below). For safety purposes, signs should not impede the visibility of vehicles pulling out of driveways or intersections and should not block entrances or exits to buildings.

Residential uses: maximum of 24 square feet of total display area

Nonresidential uses: maximum of 36 square feet of total display area

Fall Leaf Collection Begins Dec. 3

The City of Bentonville is offering its fall leaf curbside pickup again this year. City crews will begin a sweep through the city on December 3 and collection will run through December 14. City crews will travel all streets one time and will not repeat routes for bags placed after December 3. Be patient and understand that bags may sit a few days before being removed. Bags placed after December 3 are not guaranteed to be picked up. Disposal of any bags still at the curb or near edge of street after December 14 will be the responsibility of the property owner. For information regarding this program, contact Public Works Maintenance at 479-271-5945 or the Public Works Director at 479-271-6720.

Another option is to dispose of leaves yourself by taking them to the Compost Facility at 2000 NW A Street. The facility accepts grass and leaves from Bentonville residents with a copy of a utility bill and photo ID.

- All bags must be placed by 8 a.m. Dec. 3.
- Leaves only. No other waste, such as tree limbs, will be collected.
- Leaves must be bagged. Owners must provide their own bags.
- Do not place bags in drainage ditches.
- Bags not placed near the street will not be collected.
- Houses and duplexes only. Commercial properties and apartment complexes are not part of the program.
- All bags shall be securely closed and placed within 10' from curb or edge of pavement/street. Place at a different location from your normal trash collection.

Compost Hours

Monday - Saturday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Closed:
Thursday, Nov. 23,
Friday, Nov. 24

PUBLIC SAFETY

Watch your Speed

Our city is continuing to grow which adds more cars to our roads. Children are back in school and that introduces new drivers, pedestrians and cyclists to the mix of cars. With this increase, it is important that we obey the posted speed limit on our streets. Speeding can affect a driver's response time when trying to stop for an unexpected hazard in the roadway. This risk is magnified in our neighborhoods where our children play. Most neighborhoods in Bentonville will have a posted speed limit sign that can be found near the entrance of each street. Take a moment and look for yours when you are coming home from work or driving the kids to school.

Share this valuable, but sometimes overlooked, information with your family and friends who visit your neighborhood. Always observe the speed limit in your neighborhood, leave early to arrive at your destination on time and always set the example for other drivers. Together we can reduce speeding in our neighborhoods and keep our children safe.

Autumn Safety Tips

Service your furnace

Before the cold autumn and winter weather sets in, be sure to call your heating and cooling company to service yor furnace. A specialist should inspect the furnace to make sure everything is in working order and that there are no leaks.

Maintain your fireplace

- Have your chimney and flu inspected and cleaned annually.
- Use only seasoned hardwood to avoid creosote build-up in the flu.
- Clear the area around the hearth of combustible matertials.
- Always use a screen around the fireplace to catch sparks.
- Never burn cardboard boxes, trash or debris.
- Never leave a fire unattended, extinguish before leaving.
- Place logs at the rear of the fireplace or on a supporting grate.
- Empty ashes from your fireplace into a metal trashcan with a lid and store away from your home or other combustibles.

Test and service your smoke alarms

- When you change your clock, change your smoke alarm batteries.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Test your alarms monthly by pressing the button. If the alarm is 10 years or older, replace them with new alarms.

Keep the outside of your home Firewise®

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken window screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors—mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles—anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

Presented by:
Bentonville Fire Department

Word on the Streets

COMPLETE

8th St Utility Relocation. Right-of-way has been acquired and utilities have been relocated to make room for the planned roadway construction.

Pedestrian Tunnel at SE 8th / SE J. Tunnel construction is nearing completion, with only minor clean up items remaining.

SW 28th / S Walton Signal Improvement. This project will add equipment and technology to the existing traffic signal to allow for protected east and west bound left-turn movements. This project is planned to be completed summer of 2018.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

8th St / I-49 Interchange. ArDOT is constructing the 8th Street / I-49 interchange, which will include the construction of SE 8th Street from I-49 to Moberly Lane. This project should be complete in fall of 2018.

NW 3rd St, Phase III. This project consists of the bridge replacement and widening of NW 3rd Street from Saddlebrook Street to Coler Creek. Completion expected fall of 2018.

COMING UP

SW I / SW 14th Intersection Improvements. This project consists of the construction of an additional southbound lane on SW I Street from Melissa Drive to SW 14th Street (Hwy 102).

N Walton / Tiger Intersection Improvements. This project will add left turn lanes for NW 12th and Tiger Blvd., with the replacement of the existing signal.

Town Vu Bridge Replacement. The current one-lane bridge on Town Vu Road will be replaced by a box culvert that will allow for two lanes of traffic.

NW 3rd / Walton Signal. This project will add a traffic signal that includes protected left-turn movements for NW 3rd Street traffic.

Water Tower Rd / 8th St. This is a future project currently in the design phase. The project will extend 8th Street East to Water Tower Road and widen Water Tower Rd down to SE 14th Street (Hwy 62).

8th St Widening. This is a future project that is currently in the design phase. This project will widen 8th Street from SW I Street to Moberly Lane

FALL EVENTS

Oct 5 - First Friday: Bike Fest 4:30-8 p.m.
Oct 27- Last day of Farmer's Market

Nov 2 - First Friday: Toyland
Nov 11 - Veteran's Day- Please remember our service men and women as they serve and our veterans who have given service to our country.
Nov 12 - Veteran's Day Holiday Observed, City offices closed
Nov 17 - Lighting of the Square, 6 p.m.
Nov 17 - The Rink at Lawrence Plaza Opening day
Nov 22-23 - Thanksgiving Holiday–city offices and library closed

Dec 8 - Christmas Parade, 11 a.m., Bentonville Square
Dec 24-25 - Christmas Holiday – city offices and library closed
Jan 1 - New Year's Day – city offices and library closed